

**Paul Tortora  
Wilde Yacht Sales  
39 Pratt Street at Essex Landing  
Essex, CT 06426**

March 1, 2011

To: The Finance, Revenue and Bonding Committee  
Re: R.B. 1007

I am writing this letter in opposition to Bill #1007. For the past five years, I have been employed in the Connecticut boating industry. During the first couple of years of my tenure, the industry was somewhat stable and prosperous, partially facilitated by the fact that many of the residents of this coastal state are passionate about boating.

All of this changed several years ago when the national and state's economies were pounded with a recession. For the past couple of years, I've witnessed numerous brokers, dealers and service centers close shop. The boating industry is struggling to survive, as is the banking and auto industries. However, there was one major difference; there was no subsidy or governmental support for the boating industry. There is no doubt that Bill #1007 will be another major blow to the industry. When coupled with the failing economy, it could easily be the final blow to an already decimated industry. It will result in a loss of many Connecticut jobs and the closing of numerous state businesses. Additionally, It will ultimately deprive our residents with one of the benefits of living in a coastal state, boating. Clearly, Bill 1007 will drive residents and businesses to neighboring states.

I'm hopeful that our state representatives and lawmakers will have the infinite wisdom to reject this ridiculous proposal. Connecticut can't withstand the loss of another one of its major industries – please be sensible and reject Bill #1007!

Sincerely,

Paul Tortora  
Wilde Yacht Sales LLC